FAQs about the Federal Government Shutdown for Waterfowl Hunters and California State Run Wildlife Areas

The federal government shutdown has ended and National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) are opening.

- Q. How long will it take for National Wildlife Refuges to open for hunting?
- A. The following NWRs have confirmed that they will be open by Saturday, 10/19:
 - Colusa National Wildlife Refuge, (530) 934-2801
 - Delevan National Wildlife Refuge, (530) 934-2801
 - Kern National Wildlife Refuge, (661) 725-6504
 - Merced National Wildlife Refuge, (209) 826-3508
 - Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, (530) 934-2801
 - San Luis National Wildlife Refuge, (including Kesterson, Bear Creek, Freitas North), (209) 826-3508
 - Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, (760) 348-5278
 - Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, (530) 667-2231
 - Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, (530) 667-2231
 - Modoc National Wildlife Refuge, (530) 233-3572
 - Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (510) 792-0222

IMPORTANT: The South Freitas Unit of San Luis NWR is closed due to road construction at the boat launch site. The Department of Transportation is building a turn lane for the South Freitas boat launch. The construction is scheduled to be completed and the South Freitas Unit opened by 10/26. Please call the refuge at (209) 826-0463 to confirm a day or two before hunting. All hunters who were issued reservations for South Freitas on hunt days prior to 10/26 are being notified by refuge staff.

In addition, Type A and B State Wildlife Areas listed below (and all Type C wildlife areas that permit waterfowl hunting) will be open for waterfowl hunting.

- Gray Lodge Wildlife Area (Type A)
- Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (Type A and Type B Units)
- Los Banos Wildlife Area (Type A)
- Mendota Wildlife Area (Type A)
- North Grasslands Wildlife Area (Including China Island, Salt Slough and Gadwall Units) (Type A)
- San Jacinto Wildlife Area (Type A)
- Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area (Including Little Dry Creek, Howard Slough and Llano Seco Units) (Type A)
- Volta Wildlife Area (Type A)
- Wister Unit of Imperial Wildlife Area (Type A)
- Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (Type A)
- Ash Creek Wildlife Area (Type B)
- Butte Valley Wildlife Area (Type B)
- Honey Lake Wildlife Area (Fleming and Dakin Units) (Type B)
- Shasta Valley Wildlife Area (Type B)
- Willow Creek Wildlife Area (Type B)

Q. Were reservation drawings performed for Type A National Wildlife Refuges that were subject to the federal shutdown?

A. Yes. Reservation drawings were performed as usual, including drawings for all Type A National Wildlife Refuges that were subject to the federal shutdown.

(10/17/13)